I.   AMENDMENT

   A.   In the Claims

          Please amend the claims as follows:

          1. (original)   A computer-aided method for conducting a poll with high reliability
to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an accumulation of response data from
encrypted identities, the method including:

          for each one of a plurality of local computers, carrying out registration substeps
of:

          (i.)   receiving an application for participant registration, the application including
participant identification data and participant demographic data; and

          (ii.)   if said application is accepted, then issuing respective registration data, including
encrypted participant identification data;

          thereafter, for a portion of the local computers, carrying out polling substeps of:

          (iii.)   receiving digital signals over the Internet including the encrypted participant
identification data and poll response data for a first question in a poll; and

          (iv.)   responsive to said receiving of said encrypted participant identification data,
preventing more than one respective response to the first question; and

          associating the encrypted participant identification data, the response data, and
the demographic data, respectively, to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an
accumulation of the response data from encrypted identities.

          2. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said polling substeps and said
step of associating are carried out devoid of the participant identification data.

          3. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of generating a

printed report including data generated from the accumulation of the response data and from the participant demographic data.

4. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the steps of generating a report including an extract of some but not all from the group consisting of the accumulation of response data from the first question, an accumulation of response data for a second question, and the demographic data; and

storing said extract on memory media to form an article of manufacture.

5. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of generating a report including data generated from the group consisting of the accumulation of response data from the first question, an accumulation of response data for a second question, and the demographic data.

6. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of off line generating certificates of authorization as a portion of said registration data.

7. (original)   The method of claim 6, wherein said certificates include a periodic time limit requiring updating said demographic data.

8. (original)   The method of claim 6, wherein said demographic data cannot be modified under participant control.

9. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said steps of carrying out the polling substeps, and said associating the encrypted identification data, the response data, and

the demographic data to produce a demographic profile, do not include accessing said participant identification data.

10. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving digital signals over the Internet including the encrypted identification data and data representing the polling data for a first question in a poll is computed asynchronously to computing for said step of preventing more than one response on the question for the corresponding registration.

11. (original)   The method of claim 10, wherein said step of preventing more than one response on the question for the corresponding registration includes allowing over-writing a prior response.

12. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving from one of said computers an application for registration is carried out with said demographic data including a data set of at least three members from the group consisting of residence, age, gender, party, income, and race.

13. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving from one of said computers an application for registration is carried out with said demographic data including a data set of at least two members of the group consisting of residence, age, gender, party, income, and race, and said members are verified in determining if said application is accepted, said members verified by checking at least one source from the group consisting of a charge card, a debit card, a bank card, and a drivers license.

14. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving digital

signals over the Internet including the encrypted participant identification data is made verifiable by using a public key cryptographically-based digital signature.

15. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the steps of generating a private key and a public key pair, and associating the public key with the demographic data and generating a respective participant client-side certificate.

16. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of cross-certifying an issuer of certificates for participant authentication.

17. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said substeps of receiving an application for participant registration, and issuing respective participant registration data are carried out with a certifying authority computer system; and wherein said sub step of receiving digital signals over the Internet is carried out by a politics portal web site, and further including the step of communicating said participant registration data from said certifying authority computer system to a computer system in communication with said politics portal web site.

18. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving digital signals over the Internet including the encrypted participant identification data and data representing response data includes receiving a response as a signed XML construct providing a pseudononimous identity for carrying out said step of associating the encrypted participant identification data, the response data, and the demographic data with the pseudononimous identity as the encrypted participant identification data.

19. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of

disaggregating said accumulation of the response data in accordance with a portion of said demographic data to produce the demographic profile.

20. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of providing equivalent computer systems for carrying out the step of receiving the digital signals over the Internet, said equivalent computer systems communicating to form the accumulation of response data.

21. (original)   The method of claim 2, further including the step of receiving digital signals over the Internet from a participant including signals triggering a voiding of the corresponding prior response data for the first question in a poll.

22. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein further including the step of encrypting a database formed by carrying out said step of associating.

23. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein further including the step of forming a data structure mapping a database formed by carrying out said step of associating, said data structure mapping the database to consistently form a pattern of data types.

24. (original)   The method of any one of claims 1-23, wherein the step of issuing respective registration data, including encrypted participant identification data, includes issuing a schema including said participant demographic data.

25. (original)   The method of any one of claims 1-23, further including the step of providing duplicative electronic pathways for carrying out the step of receiving digital signals

over the Internet.

26. (original)   The method of any one of claims 1-23, further including linking a remotely mirrored logging facility to a host computer carrying out said step of receiving of said encrypted participant identification data; and providing said host computer with redundant power and redundant internet feeds.

27. (previously amended)   A method for high reliability communication of demographic data from encrypted identities, the method including:

(i.)   certifying, by computer, a plurality of respective registrations by substeps including:

receiving a plurality of respective participant registration applications including respective participant identification data and participant demographic data; and

for any respective one of said applications accepted for authorization, issuing respective registration data, including encrypted participant identification data and encrypted participant demographic data; and

(ii.)   using, by computer, said registration data in substeps of:

respectively receiving said registration data and query-responsive digital signals; and

associating, by computer, said encrypted participant identification data respectively with said registration data and said query-responsive digital signals in producing an accumulation such that it is not possible to directly associate said participant identification data with either said registration data or said query-responsive digital signals.

28. (currently amended)   A machine for conducting a poll with high reliability

to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an accumulation of response data from

encrypted identities, the machine including:

a <u>certifying authority</u> digital electrical computer apparatus including a digital

computer having a processor, the processor electrically connected to a memory device for

storing and retrieving machine-readable signals, to an input device for receiving input data and

converting the input data into input electrical data, and to an output device for converting output

electrical data into output having a visual presentation, the processor being programmed to

control the apparatus to receive the input data and to produce the output data by steps

including:

(i.)   carrying out registration substeps of:

receiving a participant registration application including participant identification

data and participant demographic data; and

if said application is accepted, then issuing respective registration data, including

encrypted participant identification data; and

(ii.)   ~~thereafter,~~ <u>a back office and research computer system programmed to control</u>

carrying out polling substeps of:

receiving digital signals over the Internet including the encrypted participant

identification data and poll response data for a first question in a poll; and

responsive to said receiving of said encrypted participant identification data,

preventing more than one respective response to the first question; and

associating the encrypted participant identification data, the response data, and

the demographic data, respectively, to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an

accumulation of the response data from encrypted identities.

29. (currently amended)   A method for making machine for conducting a poll

with high reliability to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an accumulation of response data from encrypted identities, the method including the steps of:

providing a <u>certifying authority</u> digital electrical computer apparatus including a digital computer having a processor, the processor electrically connected to a memory device for storing and retrieving machine-readable signals, to an input device for receiving input data and converting the input data into input electrical data, and to an output device for converting output electrical data into output having a visual presentation;

programming the processor being programmed to control the apparatus to receive the input data and to produce the output data by steps including:

(i.)   carrying out registration substeps of:

receiving a participant registration application including participant identification data and participant demographic data; and

if said application is accepted, then issuing respective registration data, including encrypted participant identification data; and

(ii.)   ~~thereafter,~~ <u>providing a back office and research computer system programmed to control</u> carrying out polling substeps of:

receiving digital signals over the Internet including the encrypted participant identification data and poll response data for a first question in a poll; and

responsive to said receiving of said encrypted participant identification data, preventing more than one respective response to the first question; and

associating the encrypted participant identification data, the response data, and the demographic data, respectively, to produce a demographic profile corresponding to an accumulation of the response data from encrypted identities.

30. (currently amended)   The method of any one of claims 1, ~~28,~~ 29, and 30,

wherein said issuing respective registration data includes issuing respective registration data as an electronic message for storing in a browser.

31. (currently amended)   The method of any one of claims 1, ~~28,~~ 29, and 30, wherein said issuing respective registration data includes issuing respective registration data into memory of a smartcard.